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large geographical interest is his extended treatment of the physical conditions, including climate, concerning which, he says, much wild exaggeration has been circulated, though no one will assert that the climate of the Isthmus is salubrious. He discusses the engineering problems and the various projects for completing the canal. He is not in favour of a sea-level canal, and he says in his final chapter:

It is the unanimous opinion of all the engineers who have had practical experience in canal work and time to thoroughly study the problem, that no sea-level *projet* without locks, and no sea-level canal even with a tidal lock, is practicable that would be comparable in ease and safety of transit to one equipped with modern locks and planned to take advantage of all the desirable elements which the natural conditions offer.

The Complete Pocket Guide to Europe. Edited by Edmund C. Stedman and Thomas L. Stedman. xxxi and 505 pp., 5 Maps, 4 Plans and Index to Places. William R. Jenkins, New York, 1905.

A new edition of this well-known "handy volume," which may still be carried in a man's pocket, thanks to the determination of the editors to keep it within the original size. It contains much condensed information, without justifying its claim to completeness. In a small book covering so much ground most attractions can merely be pointed out; but there is descriptive matter for the leading show-places. The commonplace railroad map of Europe is not worthy of the book. To specify only one or two of its shortcomings, Constantinople is not named, and the reader might easily get the impression that there is no direct rail communication between St. Petersburg and Warsaw, the third largest city of the Russian Empire.

The East Africa Protectorate. By Sir Charles Eliot. xii and 334 pp., 31 illustrations, 2 Maps, Appendices and Index. Edward Arnold, London, and Longmans, Green & Co., New York, 1905. (Price, \$5.)

Sir Charles Eliot was recently Commissioner for this Protectorate, which, roughly speaking, embraces the territory between the Victoria Nyanza and the Indian Ocean. This region is especially noteworthy because it offers opportunities for European colonization under the tropical sun. Until recently, however, knowledge of the country, as a whole, has been fragmentary and inadequate. The appearance of this book, dealing with all its important aspects and written by a former official who is most competent to treat the subject, is an interesting geographical event.

Sir Charles was sceptical as to the reports that there are wide areas perfectly adapted for occupancy by white farmers, until long investigation and experiment proved the statements to be true:

Much of the territory is still imperfectly known, and even those who have claims to special knowledge are continually surprised by the discovery of new districts, healthy, fertile, and suitable as a residence for Europeans. In this year, though six weeks of it have not yet elapsed, I have received reports of two such districts in parts of the Protectorate which were supposed to be barren, one in the north of the Rift Valley, and one near the western extremity of the German boundary.

The first eight chapters are given to a historical retrospect, a description of the geography of the coast lands, the interior and the remarkable highlands where the conditions favour white colonization, and to a most valuable account of the Swahilis, Somalis, Bantu-speaking and other tribes.

In three chapters devoted to East Africa as a European colony, the author says that the lower parts of East Africa are planters' countries, where Europeans may superintend plantations but cannot reside permanently. The coasts of the African mainland are, with a few exceptions, the best of these districts. The worst parts are the shores of Victoria Nyanza and some swampy places on the coasts.

On the other hand, the Highlands (5,000 to 10,000 feet high) are a region in which the whites may thrive and multiply, as has been proved by the experience of fifteen years. There is now a steady influx of English-speaking settlers, due to the railroad, which makes it easy to reach the highlands. The immigration has been a source of embarrassment, because the settlers arrived before surveys had been made and land laws adopted. These difficulties have not yet been entirely remedied.

The natives must be protected and assured of sufficient land for their needs, but the paucity of native population simplifies the question of white immigration. Sir Charles describes the existing system of administering the Protectorate, suggests methods of improving the Government, and supplies chapters on the railroad between Mombasa and Uganda, commerce, slavery, missions, and a journey down the Nile, the whole forming a comprehensive and valuable account of a region that until 21 years ago had never been crossed by a white man.

Relación de las Misiones de la Compañía de Jesús en el País de los Maynas. Por el P. Francisco de Figueroa. Madrid, Victoriano Suárez, 1904. (Colección de Libros y Documentos referentes á la Historia de América. Tomo 1.)

After the publication, by the Peruvian Government and in the "*Revista de Archivos y Bibliotecas nacionales*" (Sept. to last of Dec., 1899), of the documents relative to the reduction and pacification of the forest Indians on the Peruvian side of the upper Amazon, between the years 1643 and 1659, this volume on the Missions of the Marañon appears timely. It completes the former. The appendix, furthermore, contains three documents which bring down information on these Missions to the year 1738, at least. Together with the works published before in Spain (or rather reprinted), like that of Father Cristóval de Acuña from 1641, the "*Nuevo Descubrimiento del rio de Marañon, etc.*," by the Franciscans Fr. Laureano de la Cruz and Fr. Juan de Quincocos, written in 1653, and the valuable documents which the late Don Marcos Jiménez de la Espada published in Vol. IV of his "*Relaciones geográficas de Indias*," it nearly completes the set of principal sources on missions and explorations of that wild and barely penetrable region in which the Jesuits performed their monumental labours among the South American aborigines, not to omit, as belonging to the same kind of literature, what is preserved about the work of Father Samuel Fritz, S.J., in the "*Lettres édifiantes et curieuses*" and the "*Neue Weltbott*" of Father Strecklein.

Not saying it in disparagement of other Orders, it must be conceded that geography owes a special debt of gratitude to the old Jesuit missionaries. We take geography in the widest sense of the term, as embracing Natural History and Anthropology. This is well exemplified, again, in the "*Relación*" of Father Figueroa, particularly in Nos. XII to XXII, which furnish a description of the region and what it contains. The value of the specific training received by the members of the "Company of Jesus," after individual inclinations and aptitudes have been thoroughly probed and developed, is placed in proper relief through such narratives. We, of course, meet, now and then, with misstatements, with utterly unfounded stories; but no blame can be attached to the devoted priests for repeating the errors of their time. The picture of the aborigines is far from appealing to our sympathies, and one can but pity, and admire at the same time, the untiring missionaries. A most valuable contribution is the minute location of tribes or bands in the middle of the seventeenth century; and, while the (unostentatious) narratives of vicissitudes are necessarily prolix, and religious enthusiasm is strongly prominent, these very *faits et gestes*